MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 APRIL 1981

Lebanon

Military Situation--According to reports by Beirut radio, the Voice of Lebanon and the clandestine Voice of Palestine radios, Israeli and Christian militia forces shelled Tyre, Sidon, An-Nabatiyah and other areas of the south throughout 21 April while Israeli aircraft overflew the area. Voice of Palestine reported that 35 people were killed or wounded in Sidon. Jerusalem radio said Palestinian forces in southern Lebanon fired Katyusha rockets into Israel's Galilee panhandle. Clashes between various factions continued in Beirut, with exchanges of artillery, rocket and machinegun fire, according to Beirut radio and the Voice of Lebanon. The fighting eased this morning, Beirut radio said, after a night of intensive shelling. The Voice of Lebanon, however, reported that 30 shells fell on Beirut International Airport this morning and said that sniper fire in the city was continuing. The Voice of Lebanon also accused Syrian forces of shelling industrial and residential areas of Zahlah.

Yadin Warning--Israel has decided to take action to ease tension along the Israeli-Lebanese border, Jerusalem radio reported. It added that Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin has warned that certain elements in the area might try to drag Israel into taking action against the Syrians. He said that since Israel supplies arms to Lebanese Christian militia leader Maj Sa'd Haddad, it should persuade him to stop shelling civilian targets in Tyre and Sidon.

Palestine National Council

Political Statement--The Palestine National Council (PNC) issued a political statement, broadcast textually by the Voice of Palestine radio, summing up the results of the PNC session in Damascus. It said the PNC stressed the need for Palestinian national unity and called for the unification of military activities under a supreme military council. The PNC should be strengthened inside Israeli-occupied territories, the statement went on, and the armed struggle against Israel must be escalated. The PNC blamed the Jordanian Government for failing to strengthen the PLO's role as the sole legal representative of the Palestinian people and said Jordan should let the PLO assume its "full responsibility" in the work of the Palestinian-Jordanian Joint Coordination Committee. The PNC welcomed Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's pronouncements on the Middle East at the 26th CPSU Congress and emphasized the importance of PLO diplomatic and political efforts to gain more support in West Europe. It also condemned terrorism, especially Israel's "organized terrorism" against world liberation movements. In conclusion the statement noted that the PNC elected a new Executive Committee of national unity.

Abu Sharar Interview--In a 20 April interview with Voice of Palestine, Fatah Central Committee member Majid Abu Sharar revealed that the PNC decision to retain the Palestinian-Jordanian Joint Coordination Committee had not been unanimous since some members had urged that the committee be dissolved. He said the Palestine Liberation Front and the Popular Struggle Front, hitherto unrepresented in the PNC and PLO, will now be fully recognized Palestinian organizations with observer members on the PLO Executive Committee. He also said the session resolved to step up the Palestinian dialogue with Jewish organizations that are hostile to Zionism, but he did not mention the previously reported resignation from the PNC of Fatah member 'Isam as-Sartawi, who had been criticized for having contacts with Israelis.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by Baghdad radio's international service, reported that Iraqi planes downed an Iranian F-14 in a dogfight south of Ahvaz. It also said Iraqi troops forced Iranian infantry to retreat in the Shush region. An Iranian Armed Forces communique, broadcast by Tehran radio, said clashes continued on the Darkhovi, Mared, Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts.

Iran

Tehran Demonstrations--Citing the daily KEYHAN, AFP reported that 2 people were killed and 22 injured during demonstrations on 20 April calling for Tehran University to be reopened. The demonstration was staged by members of the Maoist organization Peykar who clashed with a group of Muslims. The report said two bombs exploded during the clash, one inside a hospital where the wounded had been taken. According to Tehran radio, the "wartime court" issued a communique the next day saying that "minigroups" allied with the East or the West have begun creating public incidents to disturb the peace. It warned that if they continue such actions they will be sternly dealt with according to Koranic law.

Raja'i on Budget--In a Tehran radio interview on the 1981 budget, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i claimed that Iran has no budget deficit. He also revealed that the current operating budget is larger than the development budget because the government administration, overstaffed under the shah's regime, remains too large. He pointed out that the government is forced to continue supporting certain townships and industrial projects begun before the revolution.

Khomeyni Speech--In a speech to air force officers, broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni told the airmen to advise "corrupt" individuals among them against spreading dissension and to report such people to their commanders if they do not desist.

Iraq

Baghdad radio reported that Iraq and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol on economic and technical cooperation. The Iraqi signatory, Industry and Minerals Minister Tahir at-Tawfiq, said Iraqi-Soviet technical and economic cooperation will now develop on a large scale. The Soviet signatory, State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Chairman Semen Skachkov, said the Soviet Union wants to strengthen its relations with Iraq through the implementation of agreements signed between the two countries. According to TASS, Skachkov met President Saddam Husayn during his visit.

Kuwait

KUNA reported that the Kuwaiti National Assembly has approved a bill to grant a loan to Iraq. Citing National Assembly sources, an earlier KUNA report said the loan, amounting to $2 billion, is to be interest free and will be used for the reconstruction of installations destroyed during Iraq's war with Iran.

Saudi Arabia

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher left Riyadh, SPA reported, after a 3-day official visit during which she held talks with Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and other leading officials. According to Riyadh radio, Thatcher revealed during a press conference that Britain is to supply Saudi Arabia with aircraft and weapons, including tanks. She also affirmed that the Rapid Deployment Force will not be established unless the countries in the region request it. A Saudi Foreign Ministry press statement on the visit, carried by SPA, said the talks took place in a "spirit of friendship and frankness" and that Prince Fahd had emphasized the need to resolve the Middle East and Palestinian issues on the basis of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and of the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people.

UAE

Prime Minister Thatcher arrived in Abu Dhabi for a 2-day official visit to the UAE, GNA reported. According to QNA, she later met with President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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BAKHTAR ON 'GRAVE CONSEQUENCES' OF U.S. POLICY

LD220634 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0440 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Kabul, 21 Apr (BAKHTAR)--Following is the text of a commentary of BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY:

As pointed out by observers, the real objective of Washington in initiating discussions between Agha Shahi, minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan, and representatives of the government of Reagan is to transform Pakistan into a centre of U.S. activities in the Southeast Asia region, a dispatch centre for transferring U.S. arms to counterrevolutionary terrorists of Afghanistan and intensifying the undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

It is not accidental that, as has been reported, the discussions are concerned above all with the issues concerning the expansion of military cooperation between the U.S. and Pakistan and the extension of military aid to Pakistan, which will reach to eight hundred million dollars in the next two years.

The facts have shown that the rearmament of Pakistan with active assistance of Washington and Beijing is a great threat to the peace and security of the whole region.

The Washington-Beijing-Islamabad axis which the U.S. plans to establish is aimed, above all, at opposing India.

As is well-known, the U.S. Department of Defence is seeking to revive by every possible means the American airbase at Peshawar and to establish an American naval (?base) at Gwadar Port, which has strategic importance on the route to the oil-rich resources of the Gulf region.

It is also no secret that Washington plans to obtain the permission of Islamabad for using the territory of that country by the Rapid Development Force.

It may be recalled here that Washington has openly expressed its support of predatory counter-revolutionary bands. The statements of the minister of foreign affairs of India in the parliament of that country to the effect that the delivery of large quantities of American arms to Pakistan will result in creating dangerous tensions in the region and an arms race in the sub-continent and will obstruct the normalization of relations between India and Pakistan are fully justified and warranted.

The daily TIMES OF INDIA writes that the Reagan government has assigned Pakistan a role for implementing the U.S. strategy in the Gulf region.

Similarly, the Reagan administration is trying to use Pakistan as the real route for Western weapons to counter-revolutionary elements of Afghanistan.

All these moves entail grave consequences.

KARMAL ADDRESSES TROOPS AT JELALABAD MEETING

LD212146 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Speech by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and DRA prime minister, at 19 April meeting in Jelalabad with officers and soldiers of the 11th Nangarhar Division--recorded]

[Excerpts] Comrades, friends, representatives of heroic soldiers, office and NCO's of the freedom-speaking forces of revolutionary, heroic, free and independent Afghanistan. [applause]

With your pure hearts and noble consciences we are meeting in an atmosphere in which I can only present to you profound feelings and gratitude. [applause]

It has been an exceptionally great pleasure for me to observe the exemplary artillery regiment--from the viewpoint of discipline, training and education, as well as the really warm and revolutionary reception of all the soldiers, NCO's and officers. [applause]

Heroic sons of the country: Every day and every moment in Kabul, the Central Committee of our party of heroes and martyrs--the PDPA--the government and the Revolution Council receive extensive reports of your heroic struggles in the most difficult moments in defending our sacred land Afghanistan, our borders and our honor and do not forget you for a moment.

I take it as my duty to express profound greetings to you on the coming third anniversary of the Sawr Revolution on behalf of the party, government and Revolution Council. [applause]

Heroic comrades and friends, of course we respectfully bow to the country and our people. [applause] We must not forget that today, Afghanistan is confronted by satanic internal counterrevolutionary elements, regional reaction, imperialism, hegemonism and reactionary countries. Let me once again express our profound, progressive and revolutionary Afghan gratitude to our great and permanent friend, the USSR. [applause]

Heroic comrade soldiers, every soldier is serbaz [one who is prepared to sacrifice his life]. We must continuously remember one profound point: Afghanistan--despite its backwardness, on the basis of the will of the free people of Afghanistan, with the support and power and steel-like strength of the Afghan Armed Forces, under the leadership of the PDPA--is leading a mass uprising in Asia. [applause] This mass uprising in Asia in the form of the Sawr Revolution--particularly its new developmental stage--shines apparently and clearly.

I have said the following time and again, but I consider it to be part of that basic principle which should be repeated again and again: After the Sawr Revolution, particularly its new developmental stage, we loudly repeat and insist that if it were not for the timely assistance of the USSR, revolutionary, free and independent Afghanistan would not exist today. I have said this in the greatest international tribunal--the 26th CPSU Congress, the congress of Lenin's party--loudly and in the name of the people of Afghanistan. [applause]

Comrades, friends and heroic soldiers, why should we agree with this point? On the basis of patriotic feelings and a sense of service to the oppressed people of Afghanistan we should profoundly analyze it in our conscience.

This is because today, all of international reaction, international imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, the irreligious Chinese hegemonists, the military regime of Pakistan and its reactionary collaborators--this old enemy of the people of Afghanistan, this inheritor of British colonialism--Arab reaction, Iranian reaction, internal and counterrevolutionary reaction are trying to punish and render the revolution in Afghanistan ineffective. For what purpose? To ensure that Afghan-Soviet friendship should be eliminated as a first step, and to misuse the feelings of the Afghan people because of their backwardness and illiteracy--even though it is quite clear that Afghanistan is a toiling Muslim country.

Inasmuch as Pakistan is the instrument and intermediary of imperialism and hegemonism and itself is a military regime--a terrorist regime brought to power by a coup--it therefore has no authority to sit around a discussion table and discuss (?mutual) problems. But it should be brought to your notice, dear comrades, that the militarist regime of Pakistan itself is sitting on a pile of explosives. The patriotic, national, democratic and change-seeking forces of Pakistan are daily uniting and strengthening their struggle against the militarist regime there.

It should also be brought to your notice that the situation in Iran is also not to the liking of reactionary and imperialist forces. The national and patriotic forces of Iran are daily strengthening and developing. Similarly, in China, the Maoist regime of Beijing is faced with the political storm of its people's unhappiness. Western imperialist countries are also facing the increased storm whose forces are daily strengthening and developing in the interest of peace, independence and progress.

Therefore, in our revolutionary struggles, the proportion of powers are to our interest and we have great friends--headed by the great USSR. Therefore, both the gains of the Sawr Revolution and the revolution itself are irreversible. [applause]

Comrades, another important point is that (?no one) can forecast how and from where the revolution in a country should and can start. The revolution of Afghanistan, on the basis of the country's national freedom-seeking process, was initiated by the PDPA. In effect, it started with the heroic, courageous and patriotic initiative of the Afghan Army. [applause]

Comrades, militant soldiers, dear comrades, and respected friends. So far as it is dependent on the Afghan Army, the people of Afghanistan--under the leadership of our party--started the mass and freedom-seeking revolution. Therefore, your first and grave duty is that (?by using) the Afghan Armed Forces and the heroic soldiers of Afghanistan, you are to take the final victory of the national and democratic revolution, which is antifeudal and anti-imperialist. [applause]

Therefore, respected comrades, our freedom-seeking army is no longer the army of the old regime. Our army is now the army of the freedom-seeking people of Afghanistan--an army of a new era in the wide world movement for peace, independence and progress. [applause] What I am saying is that our army can no longer just walk about in military uniforms; it should, as a powerful force, united and side by side with the mass of the people, defend the gains of the revolution and its sacred land against the undeclared, external enemy. [passage omitted]

Noble commanders of Afghanistan, there is no doubt that in yesterday's and today's world, especially in the situation of the revolutionary freedom-seeking movement of the world, people have paid respect to the heroes and martyrs and have given moral and material support. All the soldiers of Afghanistan who are in units and camps, all the NCO's and officers of Afghanistan who in one way or another are still defending the gains of the Sawr Revolution are in effect the heroes of the people of Afghanistan. [applause] But eternal heroism is that which always leads from one success to another, from one bastion to another, and to lofty heights of progress and independence of our country. And who in particular are the eternal heroes? They are those who, without worrying about themselves, think of the future generations of their country, who have the moral and material prosperity and well-being of the children, sons and daughters of their sacred country in mind. Such heroes are eternal.

Long live such heroes. [applause]

KESHTMAND ADDRESSES ULEMA, CLERGY COUNCIL MEETING

LD212110 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Excerpts] The first session of the Supreme Council of the DRA Islamic ulema and clergy was opened this morning in the palace of the Prime Ministry.

Greetings and best wishes of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA, were conveyed by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Politburo, deputy chairman of the Revolution Council and deputy prime minister, on the opening of this grand and important meeting to the Supreme Council of Ulema and Clergy of the Islamic Affairs of the DRA, and through it to all ulema, clergy and intellectuals of Afghanistan.

The meeting opened with the recitation from the Holy Koran and the playing of the national anthem. Then the head, his deputy and the members of the Supreme Council of Ulema and Clergy of Islamic Affairs were unanimously elected after voting held freely and democratically. At the start of the meeting, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said: The formation of this important council represents the realistic and principled policy of the DRA party and government, is in accordance with the interests of the toiling masses of Afghanistan, and shows the deep respect of our party and government to the beliefs, traditions and sacred religion of Islam.

Council Adopts Resolution

LD212350 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Resolution adopted by ulema and clergy of the DRA Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs at 21 April meeting in the palace of the Prime Ministry]

[Text] The main speech in which elaborate explanations were given about current events, responsibilities and duties in Afghanistan is praiseworthy and we support it. The truth of the matter is that all pains stem from the incorrect policies of the past despotic regimes and antination actions of Amin and his lackeys. Justifiable judgment orders that, at present, the DRA party and government, in the new developmental stage of the glorious Sawr Revolution following 28 December 1980, have been carrying out learned and skillful moves in all walks of life in accordance with the basic spirit of Islam and in conformity with the people's favored traditions and customs.

As it is clearly proved from the speeches of esteemed Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA; members of presidium; and conscious and painstaking members of the party and government, the lofty objective of the party and government is the building and blossoming of our beloved homeland, and they endeavor and take actions with firmness and patience for tranquility and peace in the region and in the world.

Therefore, we ulema and clergy members of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs issue and pass the following resolution and decision: The praiseworthy actions of the DRA party and government, the sound decisions of the responsible authorities, and the noble, learned and humane attitude of esteemed Babrak Karmal are acceptable to us. We decisively defend them and express our repulsion against the various intrigues of international imperialism, led by the U.S. imperialists and the hegemonists of China. The formation of an Islamic affairs center is a praiseworthy action and subject to the satisfaction of the Muslims of Afghanistan and the world. Therefore, the objectives and duties embodied in the regulation of Islamic affairs is acceptable and applicable. We will serve until the last breath for good will, tranquility, the building and blossoming of the homeland, and world peace. We teach and preach the sacred religion of Islam, free from superstitions, without deviation and misuse of preaching. We also regard ourselves assistants with other compatriot brothers for accomplishing social and humane duties and we will render honest activities. Through the formation of the broad national fatherland front, on the basis of joint moves and with consultation and cooperation, we will cure and give proper treatment to the pains and sufferings of our people and will create a progressive and honorable Afghanistan. We regard the idea of serving the toilers and social justice as being in the spirit of Islam. Therefore, new means and thought must be used in this path so that the vast and wealthy resources of the homeland are used well. We will fulfill our duties through preaching and action to organize the armed forces and implement the new military conscription law. In order to preserve our freedom and independence we are ready for sacrifice and devotion, and we regard the relentless struggle against the intrigues of imperialism, exploitation, colonization and all forms of oppression and despotism in the region and the world to be our national, human and Islamic duty. To conclude, we believe that for the purpose of accomplishing these objectives and social and [words indistinct] important (?tasks), necessary cooperation and assistance will be given to us, ulema and clergy members of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs. With assistance of God, victory is near.

HAQ ON SHAHI'S U.S. TALKS, INDIAN TIES, AFGHANISTAN

BK221047 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the formation of the federal council is in the final stages and it is expected to be constituted early next month. He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this morning where he had gone to receive the grand imam, (Shaykh al-Azar). The president said he wanted to consult members of the federal as well as provincial cabinets about those who could be nominated to the federal council. He said the Punjab cabinet was expected to be formed in a couple of days, to be followed by the formation of cabinets in Sind and Baluchistan.

Replying to a question about Foreign Minister Agha Shahi's talks with the American leaders in Washington, the president said according to reports received so far the talks were proceeding in a positive manner.

On Indo-Pakistan relations, the president said Pakistan believed that according to the principles of democracy it was India's right to decide what was good or otherwise for it. In the same way it was Pakistan's right to take measures for its security and welfare as well as for the interest and security of the region. Accordingly, Pakistan has told India that it was not in competition with it and Pakistan's efforts to normalize relations with that country would continue. Drawing attention to the aggressions to which Pakistan had been subjected in the past, he expressed the hope that it would now be able to live in peace with its neighbors.

In reply to another question about the recent mission on Afghanistan of the UN secretary general's special representative, the president said it was aimed at finding out the possibilities of a political solution of the problem. Their impression was that a good beginning had been made.

The president said the mission of Cuellar was not strictly accordance with the provisions of the UN resolutions of the 20th November last and as such it was, in fact, a halfway measure. He said the Soviet Union, which had voted against the UN resolution, could not possibly be expected to agree to the contents of the resolutions. That was why Pakistan had advised the UN secretary general to take recourse to such measures as were almost in line with the UN resolution. So Dr Waldheim had appointed his special representative instead of a special representative for holding preliminary discussions on the possibility of a political solution.

CHINA SUGGESTS THERMAL POWERPLANTS IN BALUCHISTAN

BK180719 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] A team of Chinese experts has prepared a feasibility report on setting up powerplants that will be run on coal, which is vastly available in Baluchistan.

The experts have recommended setting up a 30-megawatt powerplant of this kind at (Duggi), in Loralai District. There are about 230 million tons of coal deposits in the region to run these powerstations.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES AIR FORCE PILOTS, OTHERS 21 APR

GF211138 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received Seyyed Rabbani-Shirazi, member of the Council of Guardians, accompanied by a group of Fars Governorate citizens this morning.

Also this morning, the leader of the nation received a group of hawks of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force, accompanied by the air force commander. During the meeting, the leader of the revolution praised the efforts made by the Muslim combatants on all fronts of truth against falsehood.

Also this morning, Imam Khomeyni received the governor of Bushehr and exchanged views with him on issues of interest to the governorate. The imam then issued the necessary instructions and directives.

Addresses Officers on Unity

LD211232 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1034 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni before a group of air force officers at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran on 21 April--recorded, duration 6 minutes]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. While commending your bravery and initiative, gentlemen, as well as again paying tribute to you for being the first ones to join the nation, I express my hope that you will continue to remain faithful to your pledge.

I would like to offer a few words concerning a matter which is more important than other things as far as Islam, the country and the armed forces are concerned; that which brought you victory--the unity of word and the full cohesion throughout the armed forces. Should, God forbid, adverse propaganda spread by corrupt individuals cause a dispute, this, God forbid, might lead to God Almighty's support being withdrawn from us and to the recurrence of the troubles and afflictions that have existed throughout history.

It is our task, your task and the entire nation's task to preserve the unity of word as has been maintained thus far. Attention should in no way be paid to what is being said by the seditious ones who are appointed by the superpowers. If there are any corrupt elements among you seeking to cause dissension, you should advise them against these actions or report them to the commanders if they fail to heed your advice so that they may be taken to court and so that the cohesion that now exists among all of you may be maintained.

More important still is to look to God, for whatever we have emanates from Him and whatever we possess He has granted us in the first place. We should constantly look to him; we should realize that victory [words indistinct] and that if, God forbid, there is any deviation we are responsible for any defeat. I hope that you, dear brothers, will bear in mind that Islam is for the oppressed, including yourselves. In other words, big powers have underestimated you and, praise be to God, you have proved that their imaginings were false.

I hope that through your own efforts and initiative, and by putting in motion whatever needs to be put in motion, you will once again prove to our enemies that with reliance upon God, Iran will be victorious. I hope the most exalted Almighty God will give you victory every day. At any rate I express my salutations and greetings to all of you and to all the combatants who are battling in the cause of God, and to the martyrs who have often come from among you and others [words indistinct] may you be healthy, God willing.

FAKURI: IRAQI AIR FORCE STILL ACTIVE DESPITE RAID

LD211302 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Following the meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni in Tehran today, Colonel Fakuri [minister of national defense and commander of the air force] gave an interview to the Central News Bureau and said that the meeting took place because of the pilots' love for the imam. The pilots would like to have audiences with the imam occasionally.

A number of the pilots who recently took part in the skillful operations against Iraqi bases, as well as several other pilots and air force personnel, enjoyed an audience with the imam today at which the imam issued certain guidelines.

In response to a question on why Iraqi air attacks on border towns are still occurring following the successful operations against Iraqi airbases, the air force commander said: We inform the noble Iranian nation that it should not imagine that the Iraqi Air Force has been wiped out by our raid. We have certainly delivered severe blows against it but it still has resources for new raids on our border towns in order to display its presence once in a while.

SUPREME ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETS, MAKES DECISIONS

LD221002 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] According to PARS, the Public Relations office of the prime minister's office announced that the Supreme Economic Council met yesterday. Participating were Prime Minister Raja'i, the ministers of economy and finance, commerce, industry and mines, labor, the minister without portfolio and official in charge of the Plan and Budget Organization, the deputy petroleum minister and the director of the Central Bank. The session lasted 4 hours and was held at the prime minister's office. Discussed were suggestions by various government organizations and ministries concerning the current needs of the country and the implementation of development plans. Some decisions were made.

It was agreed that the Khorasan power board should invest 205,678,000 rials for 71 building and installation projects. It was also agreed to implement projects by the Pashm Risi Gharb Company, the Nakh Tala Company and the (?CBC) Company of Sangsar. The Supreme Economic Council also concurred with a suggestion made by the Ministry of Energy concerning amendments to a loan agreement with Credit Suisse for the implementation of a project to install power transfer lines in the west of the country. It was also decided that some other suggestions made by the government will be discussed in future sessions, following a review by the respective ministries.

RAJA' PRESENTS BUDGET, INTERVIEWED ON CONTENTS

LD212000 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Interview with Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i following his presentation of the 1981 national budget to the Majlis on 21 April--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Prime Minister, you presented the budget to the Majlis today. Would you be good enough to tell us what the priorities in this budget are and which one of the two sectors was stressed, services or development?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The budget's priorities from the so-called intellectual standpoint should definitely be agriculture, industry, and then education and training and similar issues.

But a series of projects have been left to us from the past years by the previous regime and these have been imposed on us automatically. Of course, we are not happy to invest in such projects, but we are forced to do so. They include certain townships and certain industrial enterprises. All in all--just as our dear compatriots will be reading in the press--our development budget is less than the country's current budget. This is because of the administrative organization which the former regime needed in order to escape from the inflation which had overwhelmed it to the point of suffocation. The former regime used to take a room wherever it could, put four or five tables in it, and employ people to work there as government employees. This is why our current budget is still larger than the development budget. However, we hope to put right this anomaly.

[Question] Well, will this proportion be higher in the next 3-4 years?

[Answer] Not at all. The proportion of our current budget, if we take into consideration the ordinary expenditures, has fallen by 10 percent compared with the previous year. But, because of the war budget, which is more than 55 billion tumans, this difference is not shown in the report--a fact which was explained in the Majlis.

[Question] Yes, what is the volume of the overall budget and would you please tell us whether the previously approved budget for the first 2 months of the year has been taken into consideration in this budget or not?

[Answer] The volume of the overall budget is more than 3.3 trillion rials, that is, in more familiar figure, in excess of 330 billion tumans. And because this is the annual budget, it follows that it certainly includes the budget for the first 2 months of the year.

[Question] How big is the budgetary deficit?

[Answer] Fortunately, thanks to the precautions we took, we do not have a budgetary deficit.

[Question] We have no budgetary deficit whatsoever?

[Answer] None whatsoever, unless problems crop us which--God willing and thanks to the preparedness of our nation--we shall also overcome.

[Question] Could you please tell us whether a certain sum has been allocated for new employment or not?

[Answer] In connection with employment, in certain institutions such as the judiciary, we are engaging more people, but in other executive organs we are engaging fewer people. However, we have not allocated any special funds for employment, except for services, the so-called center for the extension of services, which as you may well know, began last year. It is a successful project and--God willing--we will organize it. Outside the budget, we have certain plans whereby certain firms which already have workers and staff will be able to expand the number of their workers and boost production--God willing!

COURT WARNS 'MINIGROUPS' AGAINST DISRUPTING PEACE

LD211836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] 'According to the Central News Bureau, the wartime court has issued its 24th communique announcing that the minigroups attached to the East or the West have started creating incidents in public areas in order to upset the peace. According to their futile imagination, they are implementing the inauspicious aims of their master, Reagan.

The wartime court denounces such fascist and reactionary activities and strongly warns the chief culprits that, should such actions be repeated, they will be dealt with very strongly following the advice of the Koran. The communique also asks all law enforcement agencies, revolution guard brothers and all noble forces true to the revolution to aid the court by gathering information--without any confrontation.

KHAMENE'I CONCLUDES VISIT TO GILAN-E GHARB, SUMAR

GF211403 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Following the conclusion of his visit to the Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar fronts last night, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, said that he believed the signs of God were manifested in every single move and step made by our Muslim warriors. He added that not a single day passes without seeing evidence of this. Seyyed Khamene'i added that throughout the war, the enemy's fire has been 10 times greater than our fire and his resources 10 times greater than ours. It follows that, according to the natural laws of war, we should have been eliminated by now. However, despite all these factors and laws we witness daily increased combat capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran coupled with decreasing capabilities and weaknesses in the Saddamist aggressors.

In fact, this is the interpretation of the Koranic verse where Almighty God says: If there are 100 of you, patient and persevering, they will vanquish 200. For this reason, day by day, Islam will witness continuous victories, God willing.

The imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council returned to Kermanshah last night following his 15-hour inspection tour of the fighting fronts of truth against falsehood in Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar. At his meeting on the Sumar front with a gathering of Islamic revolution guards, Seyyed Khamene'i said: You who fight for Islam will be victorious, God willing. Following your victory against Saddam you will see that Iraqi brothers will stand at your side in the war of Islam against its enemies.

At Gilan-E Gharb front, Seyyed Khamene'i met with the Islamic revolution guards and talked to them for 2 and 1/2 hours. The imam's representative addressed the revolution guards by saying: You are capable of becoming the best and chosen group for mankind on earth. When you return from the fighting front of truth against falsehood, you will become the revolution's torches which convey to others the call and light of our Islamic revolution just as the messengers did.

Noting the aggression of the Iraqi forces against the Islamic homeland in Iran, Seyyed Khamene'i said that this war has provided all our forces with cohesion, unity and coordination so that the soldiers of Islam, along thousands of kilometers of the fighting fronts, are currently fighting the enemy with steadfastness and complete cohesion and are creating new historic events every day.

BANI-SADR TOURS REFUGEE CAMPS, BEHBEHAN BASE

LD212052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] According to PARS, Mr Bani-Sadr, the commander in chief of the armed forces, accompanied by the supervisor of the foundation for war-stricken people and the governor general of Khuzestan, arrived in the Armash camp by helicopter this morning to make an inspection of the camp. He was warmly welcomed by our Khuzestani compatriots living there.

On his arrival, the camp supervisor described the situation in the camp and the activities and steps taken to establish the place as a camp.

Mr Bani-Sadr, while inspecting the tents and various parts of the camp, talked to our Khuzestani compatriots living there, asked them about their difficulties and problems, and expressed the hope that they would be able to return to their cities and villages as soon as possible.

On the basis of the same report, the commander in chief of the armed forces and his entourage then left for the Vahdat camp in Behbehan and were warmly welcomed by the inhabitants of the camp. After inspecting the health center, tents and other parts of the camp and after reviewing the shortages and difficulties, Mr Bani-Sadr arrived at the camp's mosque and made a short speech to our Khuzestani compatriots living there.

This war is a great test of us all. Our enemies and Saddam thought that in Khuzestan you would turn against Islam and the Islamic revolution and would be deceived by his promises and would betray Iran, your Islamic homeland. He thought that with the arrival of his armed forces you would accept arms and money from him to stand against Islam and your Islamic homeland. But you showed that you are faithful to Islam and Iran.

The commander in chief of the armed forces then added: The country and the revolution are grateful to you. We hope that God will give us the honor of being at your service and we hope that He will grant victory to our country. We hope to be able to end the war soon and with victory, God willing; then, you will be able to return to your homes and develop Khuzestan with the resources which the country will place at your disposal.

After inspecting this camp, Mr Bani-Sadr left for Behbehan and visited several places in different parts of this city where refugees are housed. After visiting the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' Behbehan headquarters and after having lunch with the brother guards, he left for Behbehan Airbase. While inspecting various parts of this base, he took part in a meeting with the personnel of the base and their families at the mosque and delivered a short speech.

This evening he returned to Behbehan.

MAJLIS COMMITTEE ISSUES STATEMENT ON EL SALVADOR

GF211530 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] A statement issued by the Majlis Foreign Affairs Committee affirms the Iranian people's support for the Salvadoran people in their struggle for independence, and declares Iran's full support for this just struggle.

The statement condemns the massacres perpetrated by the United States through the ruling military council against the Salvadoran people. The statement says: The crimes committed by U.S. imperialism through its agents in the ruling military council to suppress the oppressed masses of the Salvadoran people, and the shedding of the blood of thousands of free Salvadorans in order to safeguard its imperialist interests, is evidence of the savagery of U.S. imperialism in today's world.

Referring to the Islamic revolution that, by relying on God and through Islamic unity and by relying on the masses of the people and under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, succeeded in toppling the regime that was the biggest U.S. puppet in the region and in achieving independence, freedom and the Islamic Republic for the Iranian people, the statement asserts: The Salvadoran people also will achieve their rights through the revolutionary unity of the soldiers of their struggling forces.

The statement expresses the hope that the Salvadoran people, after toppling the corrupt regime that rules their country, will establish social justice in their country and will support the revolutionary Muslim people of Iran to strengthen the world front of the oppressed against the arrogant.

MAJLIS DEPUTIES DEPART FOR MANILA CONFERENCE

GF220953 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Majlis Deputies Mohammad Katemi and ('Atallah Mohajerani) left Tehran for Manila, Philippines, yesterday leading a delegation that will attend the International Interparliamentary Conference. In a predeparture statement Mohammad Katemi said: We are participating in this conference to explain the goals of the Islamic revolution and its role in the fate of humanity to the participants. He asserted that Iran's participation does not mean the Islamic Republic of Iran accepts the laws governing the organization. He said that Iran has the right to attend meetings that serve the people.

INDUSTRY MINISTER MEETS TURKISH COMMERCE MINISTER

GF211532 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] The Turkish minister of commerce met today with Industry and Mines Minister Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh. They discussed ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation. During the meeting, Brother Nematzadeh said: We are prepared to cooperate in the industrial field with the countries that respect the Islamic revolution's principles and Iran's independence and sovereignty.

He added: I hope that we shall establish for the Islamic nation industries that are not controlled by any world power and that Muslim countries will achieve self-sufficiency.

IRP LEADER: NO SUPPORT FOR MUSLIM BROTHERS

JN210726 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Tehran--Jalaleddin Farsi, an Islamic Republican Party [IRP] leader, has said that the IRP, which supports all sincere Islamic movements, cannot support the Muslim brothers who are working to weaken the nationalist regime in Syria at a time when this regime is confronting traitors like As-Sadat and King Husayn. The Muslim brothers, Farsi added, are preoccupying the Syrian Army at a time when it is facing a foreign enemy represented by Israel and the imperialist and Zionist agents in the area.

Farsi added that the IRP's official stand is to reject all these practices which cannot be in the service of Islam.

In an interview with the SANA correspondent in Tehran, Farsi said that the IRP Central Committee had recently adopted resolutions about the party's position toward various internal and foreign issues, adding that these resolutions would soon be announced. As for foreign policy, some of the resolutions provide for promoting and strengthening relations with the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states, particularly Syria and Libya.

Praising Syria's and Libya's stands on the Iranian revolution--ever since the inception of this revolution--Farsi said that the IRP had charted its foreign policy in accordance with the stands of countries on Saddam Husayn's aggression against Iran. The IRP defines its relations with these countries on this basis.

AFP: 2 KILLED, 22 INJURED IN TEHRAN DEMONSTRATION

NC211329 Paris AFP in English 1313 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Tehran, 21 Apr (AFP)--Two people were killed and 22 injured during demonstrations last night calling for the reopening of Tehran University closed now for a year, the daily paper KEYHAN reported today.

The paper said about 200 members of the Marxist-Leninist Peykar (Maoist) organisation staged the demonstration and clashed with a group of young Moslems.

A home-made bomb exploded during the protest and a second went off inside Khomeyni Hospital, where security forces had taken the wounded, killing a boy and young woman, the paper said.

KEYHAN said the bomb went off as the rival factions clashed inside the hospital.

The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC newspaper said that after clashes in "several parts of the city", about 30 demonstrators were arrested but later released.

Today several hundred religious extremists staged a sit-in outside the university to prevent any further demonstrations.

2 KILLED IN EXPLOSION NEAR TEHRAN PALACE

LD221128 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] A powerful bomb, which had been planted inside a minibus parked on the opposite side of Niavaran Palace, exploded at 1150 today. As a result of this explosion, several cars were destroyed and two passersby were killed.

According to a Central News Bureau report, several people were also injured in this incident. Ten of them are hospitalized in [name indistinct] Hospital and several others were taken to other hospitals.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 475

LD211843 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Communique 475 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with reliance on the undiminishing power of Almighty God and with the advantage of having faith and high morale, will continue to fight against Saddam's mercenary and aggressive infidels until they are granted martyrdom. Their efforts, during the past 24 hours of battle, are brought to the attention of the dear compatriots as follows:

Southern fronts:

Exchanges of fire between the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iraqi Armed Forces continued on the Darkhovin, Mared, Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts. Combatants of the ground forces inflicted the following blows on enemy forces, using artillery, mortar and other heavy weapons:

On the Darkhovin-Mared front, four enemy bulldozers and several trenches and tank emplacements were either destroyed or badly damaged.

On the Mahshahr-Abadan front, one tank, one vehicle, one ammunition depot and one machine-gun trench of the enemy were set ablaze and destroyed. On the Abadan-Khuninshahr front more than 10 trenches and foxholes, 1 mortar trench, 1 ammunition depot, 5 ammunition vehicles, 1 bulldozer, 1 loader, 1 crane and 1 106-mm gun of Saddam's mercenaries were hit by the fire of our self-sacrificing combatants and were either destroyed or damaged and put out of action.

Yesterday, some residential districts and oil installations of Abadan came under fire from artillery and other long-range weaponry of Iraqi mercenary forces, which resulted in some loss and damage.

Sporadic exchanges of fire continued on the Ahvaz, Dezful and Susangerd fronts.

Western fronts:

Exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued on most western fronts between our combatants and the enemy forces. Combatants of the gendarmerie opened fire on enemy positions on one of the Gilan-e Gharb fronts; as a result, four trenches and one ammunition tent of Saddam's mercenaries were set on fire and destroyed. On the same front, 11 enemy personnel were killed.

Yesterday, five Iraqi Muslim soldiers and eight civilians with their families presented themselves to our forces in the region of Saqqez and sought asylum. They were warmly welcomed by our brothers in the armed forces.

Several Iraqi invading fighter aircraft yesterday tried to attack several of our border cities, but, with vigilance, our combatants in the air defense unit opened fire on these aircraft and forced them to flee.

During a battle on 19 April, 2 self-sacrificing personnel of the ground forces gained the exalted status of martyrdom. On the same day, the combatants of the ground forces and the navy suffered several wounded.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GUARDS CORPS REPORTS ON RECENT OPERATIONS

LD212210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Report issued by the Public Relations Office of the Command Council of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on operations carried out in the past 48 hours on southern and western battlefields]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

We are defending Islam, and a defender of Islam does so with his life, property and dear ones, and will never sit still. [Imam Khomeyni quotation]

You are hereby informed of some operations carried out by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps during the past 2 days:

Thanks to light and medium-heavy weapons fire by our brother guards deployed on the Abadan fronts, the enemy's supply highway along the Al-Faw-Basra axis in Iraqi territory came under fire. Two enemy vehicles and two trenches of the infidel mercenaries were destroyed, several of their assembly positions were set ablaze and a large number of the enemy--about whom no accurate figures are available--were either killed or wounded.

Thanks to fire opened by a mortar unit of our brother guards, three ammunition dumps and two trenches of the aggressor enemy were pounded on three fronts in Abadan and as a result a number of Ba'thist infidels were killed or wounded. During the same day the epic makers of the guards corps, during an hour-long battle against the legions of blasphemy on the Arvand Rud [Shatt al'Arab] front, killed a number of Saddam's mercenaries and wounded others. The heroic forces of Islam suffered no losses.

On 20 April, the counterrevolutionaries were spotted carrying out suspicious movements in the vicinity of the hamlets of Jeyran, Amirabad and Qal'eh Metavar near Piranshahr in the western border region, and our guards corps brothers launched a counteroffensive, with artillery support by the army of Islam, and as a result the counterrevolutionaries fled from the scene. No figures are yet available as to casualties suffered by the attackers.

[Signed] The Public Relations Office of the Command Council of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

TEHRAN REPORTS 18 APR IRAQI MIG ATTACK ON PAVEH

LD181830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Excerpt] According to a Central News Bureau report, in a foul attack on the residential areas of Paveh this afternoon, aggressive Iraqi fighters dropped rockets on three points in the city, martyring four people and wounding 20 others.

In this raid, carried out by two Iraqi MiG's, one rocket was dropped on the city's hospital and another on one of Paveh's crossroads. The third was dropped on a residential area.

RADIO IRAN: GUARDS CLASH WITH VARIOUS TRIBES

NC172120 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] Following the recent unrest in the south, reports have been received from Dow Gonbadan that fresh clashes have taken place there between the braves of Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad and the invading revolution guards. According to these reports, on Tuesday morning, 14 April, Khomeyni's revolution guards set up mortars on the (Ta Moradi) tribe's migration route in the (Lowdal) area of Boyer Ahmad. From these positions they intended to attack, those migrating, but the (Ta Moradi) braves attacked the cowardly revolution guards and forced them to flee. In the clash, three revolution guards were killed, but none of the tribe's fighters were killed or injured.

After the revolution guards fled the scene of the clash, a mortar and a number of mortar shells, J-3 rifles and bullets were confiscated by the (Ta Moradi) fighters.

The reports from Dow Gonbadan add that the migration of the Kokhiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad tribes toward cooler regions is continuing at full speed and that Khomeyni's regime is busy building up its forces there. The objective behind these acts by Khomeyni's officials is to disarm the southern tribes and destroy them. But in the two attacks against the area's tribes up to now, Khomeyni's guards have faced disgraceful defeats and have fled leaving behind a number of dead.

Meanwhile, reports from Shiraz state that the brave fighters of the Qashqa'i tribe in Kuhmareh region on the Firuzabad-Shiraz road attacked four trucks carrying foodstuffs for the revolution guards and after a short clash they unloaded the trucks and took the supplies to the mountains. It is necessary to note that since the clashes between the revolution guards and the Qashqa'is started, the criminals ruling Iran have imposed an economic blockade on the Qashqa'i tribal region and are preventing the delivery of foodstuffs, medicines and fuel to the Qashqa'is.

For this reason, the brave men of the tribe had no alternative but to forcibly take the basic needs of their families from the revolution guards and clergy.

NVOI CRITICIZES BANI-SADR, CALLS FOR CALM

TA211449 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Unattributed commentary: "The Expectation of the Imam and the Nation"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: For a few days now members of the three-man committee for solving the differences existing between responsible groups and official authorities have been busy investigating matters that have been entrusted to them at the order of the imam of the nation. In a meeting between the imam and two members of this committee, the imam of the nation recommended that they should attend to those matters that are a source of differences, in order to create an atmosphere of understanding among the authorities. The imam stressed that investigation of violations should be undertaken by legal channels, such as the Consultative Assembly, the public prosecutor's office and also by themselves.

In brief, the imam justly recommends that the atmosphere of tension should be removed. The emphasis of the nation's imam on creating a calm atmosphere and avoiding the creation of tension is not accidental since the imam, with his special insight and farsightedness, as in all sensitive instances in the history of our homeland's revolutionary struggles, has distinguished very well that the foes of Iran's revolution--world-devouring imperialism and its agents--need an atmosphere of tension in order to weaken and overthrow the system of the Islamic Republic, and at best to install a so-called moderate and middle-of-the-road government or, according to Mr Bazargan, an independent government.

World-devouring America, in addition to all the plots and aggressions, has imposed a destructive war upon our nation with the hands of its agents in the region. Under such difficult conditions, strengthening the economic and revolutionary power, fortifying the front and behind the front is conditional on the maintenance and establishment of calm and avoidance of clashes, whether verbal or otherwise. Irresponsible statements, egocentrism, superficiality, blind fanaticism or alignments based on these erroneous methods, which are imcompatible with the spirit of the revolution, in fact cause discord and disunity and also weaken revolutionary power and morale.

An atmosphere of tension and clashes among the upper echelons and government figures, especially under the current conditions, diverts public opinion from the main duties facing the nation, as well as from the principle danger: namely, the plots of world-devouring America and counterrevolution; a calm atmosphere devoid of tension draws the attention of public opinion to the basic goals and the principle dangers. Thus, maintaining and establishing a calm atmosphere during the present moments of our homeland's history is an urgent, vital and revolutionary duty, and in this respect, the duty of government figures and officials is a crucial responsibility and the burden of their obligation vis-a-vis the nation and revolution is heavier.

With utmost regret one should confess that despite the recommendations and emphasis of the nation's imam, some officials, especially the president and his entourage, do not accord sufficient attention to this vital matter. The short and evasive remarks, statements letters and interviews of our country's president are a manifestation of this bitter fact. Let us keep in mind that a year or so ago, when the struggles and taking of sides among government figures intensified, both the imam of the nation and the true revolutionary forces called in their statements and publications on all government figures to unite in a destiny-making front. At that time the imam of the nation declared in a message that it is up to the noble Iranian nation to resist in any ideology or group from creating discord, dissension and obstructionism for one another, to crush the enemies with unity of word, to put aside personal and group disputes that arise only from worldly desires, which if developed will drag everyone to destruction and lead the country to ruin.

During that time, the true forces of the revolution pointed out in their statements that all disputes and all forms of existing ideological, doctrinal and political differences among groups, organizations and parties should be put aside, and all the Iranian people, all the Iranian revolutionary forces should be mobilized in a united front under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni--leader of the revolution--in the struggle against the common enemy--criminal America. However, time has shown that these differences became deeper day by day and the existing tensions in the country increased. Let us keep in mind that U.S. imperialism and Zionism, through the hands of their agents--be they the pseudoclergy, the U.S. Maoists and the road roller liberals--were and are constantly striving to aggravate the climate of tension by taking advantage of the mentality of egocentrism, monopoly seeking, superficiality and blind fanaticism of certain government figures. With utmost regret, all these elements who overtly and covertly have a hand in the implementation of plans to weaken the Islamic Republic, even the U.S. Ranjbar middlemen too, recognize themselves as defenders and supporters of the so-called president's line. Even more regrettably, the president has still not distanced himself from these groups and recognized elements.

Of course, in such circumstances it is difficult to be optimistic about the progress of the three-man committee's work. The first condition for the success of this committee's work depends upon the fact that government figures themselves, especially the president, discontinue their connection with the liberals and groupings such as the American Ranjbar. At the same time, all the upper echelon groups, by grasping their historical and crucial responsibility, should give up monopoly seeking, superficiality and egocentrism. This is the expectation of the imam, the nation and all the true forces of the revolution.

NVOI ON WAY TO ADVANCE, DEVELOP AGRICULTURE

TA211938 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 21 April carried a commentary entitled "The Way To Achieve Self-Sufficiency in Agriculture," which stated that in a meeting with a large number of employees of the country's military industries, Imam Khomeyni said: If our farmers believe that in agriculture we are capable of reaching a stage where we can export and not be dependent on others, rather that others are in need of us, then they will be capable of doing so. However, does reaching self-sufficiency in agriculture only depend on the belief, endeavor and faith of the Iranian farmer? In order to save our peasants from this backward situation and in order to develop and advance agriculture, the peasants should first of all be saved from the evil domination of the feudalists and landowners. As long as the farmer does not own land and does not feel the all-out support of the government in every sphere and does not enjoy the government's financial and technical assistance, the desired result will not be achieved no matter how much he endeavors toward the advancement and development of agriculture, particularly under the current critical conditions when world-devouring America, the big capitalists, the large landowners and feudalists and their supporters, the liberals and the American and Chinese Maoists, are striving with the utmost power to crush the gains of the revolution and to restore the previous situation.

Despite the numerous recommendations of Imam Khomeyni regarding the immediate investigation of the peasants' affairs and distribution of land belonging to landowners and feudalists among farmers with no land or with small landholdings, and despite the approval of the law of the distribution of land among peasants, obstructions are still placed on the path of implementing this law. For several months now, as a result of obstruction by some responsible officials in revolutionary institutions, and even by a number of the eminent clergy and the pseudoclergy, implementation of paragraph 6 of this law has been totally halted. Suspending the implementation of paragraph 6 of the land reform law deals the greatest blow to agriculture and the country's economy and makes the situation of the farmers even worse than it already is. Millions of the oppressed of our homeland's villages expect to have land and water and to receive technical and financial assistance from the government.

SRI LANKA

SOUTH ASIAN FOREIGN SECRETARIES MEETING OPENS

BK211144 Colombo International Service in English 1056 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] A 4-day meeting of foreign secretaries from seven South Asian countries opened in Colombo today. The meeting, in which India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka are participating, is a first of its kind in the region to work out ways and means of promoting economic and technical cooperation. The talks were inaugurated by Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed. The current meeting is expected to pave the way for a conference of foreign ministers which will precede a South Asian summit.

Hameed Addresses Meeting

BK211244 Hong Kong AFP in English 1053 GMT 21 Apr 81

[By Dalton da Silva]

[Excerpts] Colombo, 21 Apr (AFP)--Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed today told a meeting of foreign secretaries of seven countries that the time was appropriate for formalised regional co-operation in South Asia.

Mr. Hameed welcomed the initiative of Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman which has led to the present meeting in Colombo to explore ways of promoting regional co-operation.

Mr. Hameed said that the positive response to that initiative from all governments of the region was more than adequate proof that the will to co-operate exists. "One of your tasks is to examine in what forms and in which areas that will should be collectively expressed," he told the foreign secretaries.

The foreign minister said that the seven countreis were fortunate in that, despite difficultires and differences, they also had many common factors.

Geographically, the region was clearly definable; historically and culturally they shared a similar heritage; major religions of the world co-exist in the region; and all the seven culties belong to the Non-aligned Movement.

Mr. Hameed told the foreign secretaries to examine possibilities for regional co-operation on the basis of identifiable common factors and not be overawed by differences. "I invite you," he said, "to cast aside any fears, doubts and any sense of hesitancy that exists in the region. These are all the products of mind-sets which have not grasped the reality that creative collectivity can sustain our peoples. That is what we really must strive to achieve with dedication and sincerity."

Mr. Hameed enumerated seven areas in which regional co-operation could help. They are: Closer co-operation in international fora on all matters concerning the peace, security and economic development in the region, development of mechanisms for unified negotiations in dealings with already established regional organisations, and the possibility of settling disputes within the region without external interference or manipulation.

The other areas are: The growth of collective self-reliance through regional, economic, and technical co-operation, the use of collective self-reliance as a factor in negotiations leading to the establishment of a new international economic order, the encouragement of human interaction within the region through systematic cultural exchnages, tourism and institutional co-operation, and a programme for disseminating information about each other.

Mr. Hameed said that the international political and security environment was tense and fraught with many dangers and that the countries in this region must protect their own interests.

He said that these countries had long hoped for the establishment in the region of an area of peace free from confrontation and that they should work together to make that hope come true.

He said these countries should also work at developing regional collective self-reliance as a parallel strategy to global economic negotiation.

He advocated a carefully prepared summit meeting at which the goals of regional co-operation could be defined.

India Proposes Study Groups

OW211843 Hong Kong AFP in English 1835 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Colombo, 21 Apr (AFP)--India today proposed appointing four technical groups to study four areas in which regional co-operation in South Asia may be possible.

The proposal was made by India's foreign secretary, R.D. Sathe, at the first working session of a conference here of seven foreign secretaries discussing ways of promoting South Asia regional cooepation.

Mr. Sathe proposed that the four technical groups may study such areas as co-operation in cultural activities, infrastructural fields (telecommunications, meterology, etc), negotiations with developed countries and other developing countries in various international forums, and the field of science and technolgoy.

He suggested that the reports of these groups may be submitted for examination at the next meeting of foreign secretaries of the region.

The Indian foreign secretary said it was only when adequate progress in all these fields had taken place that it would be useful to hold a meeting at foreign ministers level.

He cautioned the foreign secretaries that while they should profit from the experience of other regional groupings, they should not replicate or copy those patterns.

Mr. Sathe said: "A pattern of regional co-operation in South Asia should evolve itself. We do not have to jump steps ahead and create an organisational superstructure without first agreeing upon arrangements, modalities and programmes of regional co-operation."

He said that till detailed examination had taken place it would be premature to consider the institutionalisation of regional co-operation through the establishment of a secretariat.

He suggested avoiding discussions in regional framework of all bilateral and contentious issues; unanimity as the principle on the basis of which decisions in regard to regional co-operation are taken should be followed scrupulously.

Pakistan Cautions Against Haste

OW211754 Hong Kong AFP in English 1730 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Colombo, 21 Apr (AFP)--Pakistan today cautioned other South Asian nations against the temptation of taking precipitate steps toward regional co-operation.

Mr. Riaz Piracha, Pakistan's foreign secretary, told a conference here of seven South Asian countries that regional co-operation should be promoted on the basis of mutual benefit to the extent possible.

He said that the establishment of an institutional framework for regional co-operation was not feasible in the present circumstances. Such a framework should await development of greater regional understanding and complementarity in the economics of the regional countries, Mr. Piracha said.

Mr. Piracha also described as "premature" proposals for the extension of the present consultations to a higher political plane such as a foreign ministers' meeting or a summit level conference.

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka were among countries that had envisaged a follow-up of the Colombo meeting at a higher level of foreign ministers to be followed by a summit.

The Pakistan foreign secretary said identification of possible areas of co-operation and undertaking detailed technical studies to determine the nature, extent and modalities of co-operation were necessary.

He said that, in the view of Pakistan, the foreign secretaries meeting was of necessity one of an exploratory nature. "We have to move forward in a measured manner, one step at a time, without forcing the pace of progress," he said.

Mr. Piracha, cautioning against taking precipitate steps, said: "We must make sure that there is not too much sail on too small a hull."

He suggested that a beginning might be made in selecting the least controversial areas for co-operation and initiating technical studies to determine by mutual agreement the nature, extent and modalities of co-operation. An institutional framework should only grow out of functional requirements, he said.

Bangladesh, in a working paper which was today accepted as a basis for discussion, has proposed an institutional framework of a director general to facilitate regional co-operation.

Mr. Piracha said that Pakistan was committed to deepening its co-operation and strengthening its friendship with all countries, especially its South Asian neighbours.

While agreeing with the others that there was considerable potential for co-operation, he said: "Our efforts, however, should be anchored in realism, our ambition tempered by caution and our aspirations balanced by deliberation."

Nepal Supports Cooperation

BK211530 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] The conference of foreign secretaries of seven South Asian countries has begun in Colombo. Speaking at the meeting, the leader of the Nepalese delegation, Foreign Secretary Jagdish Shumsher Rana, said: The concept of regional cooperation has become a living reality around the world to meet the growing challenges of peace and development.

Stating that all the countries in the region had good bilateral relations, he said: Despite the inevitable differences which exist in the relations between independent and sovereign states, we have on the whole managed to have mutual beneficial cooperative relations in various economic, commercial and technical fields on the basis of equality.

As members of the Nonaligned Movement and the United Nations and its specialized agencies, all the countries have been working in close cooperation and collaboration with another in international, political and economic fields, he said.

The foreign secretary said: Various UN agencies, such as the WHO, function in regional strength and it has been found that when they work within the regional concept, they have been most successful in the achievement of the stated objective. Regional cooperation will impart a new vigor to our existing good relations and will undoubtedly facilitate the solution of bilateral problems through peaceful means, he continued, adding: The region will have closer and deeper sense of mutual belonging and it will become a solid front of nonaligned countries cooperating with each other and striving for world peace and progress on the basis of UN and nonaligned ideals and principles.

The foreign secretary said: The working paper circulated by the delegation of Bangladesh will be a good basis to start the discussions, adding that the paper not only outlined the rationale behind the proposal, but also identifies the possible areas of such co-operation. He said further: All the suggested areas are important and noncontroversial in nature and it also holds unlimited potentialities for mutual benefit.

HUNGARIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN COLOMBO 21 APR

BK221133 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] A five-member Hungarian delegation, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Vencell Hazi, arrived in Colombo yesterday on a 6-day official visit to Sri Lanka.

Dr Hazi had talks with Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed yesterday evening in his office in Colombo. The ministers discussed mainly bilateral relations between the two countries.

COUNTRY TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED FROM SOVIET SATELLITE

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[Text] Sri Lanka is to be photographed from the Soviet satellite in outer space at the suggestion of President Jayewardene. Jayewardene's suggestion was made when Soviet cosmonaut Vladimir Liyakov called on him at the president's lodge in Nuwara Eliya. In reply to a question by the president as to whether photographs of Sri Lanka had been taken during their record breaking flight of 175 days, Liyakov said that in such matters the USSR strictly abided by international convention, according to which pictures of countries were taken from outer space only with their prior permission.